
MODEL TOBACCO-FREE EVENT POLICY

WHEREAS, cigarette smoking is responsible for more than 480,000 deaths per year in the United States, including more than 41,000 deaths resulting from secondhand smoke exposure; contributing to about one in five deaths annually, or 1,300 deaths every day; and

WHEREAS, scientific studies have concluded that cigarette smoking can cause chronic lung disease, coronary heart disease, and stroke, in addition to cancer of the lungs, larynx, esophagus, and mouth; and

WHEREAS, people who use smokeless tobacco ingest a similar amount of nicotine as regular smokers and are exposed to at least 30 chemicals that are known to cause cancer; and

WHEREAS, cigar smoke, like cigarette smoke, contains toxic and cancer-causing chemicals that are harmful to both smokers and nonsmokers; and

WHEREAS, The Surgeon General has determined that there is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke; and

WHEREAS, secondhand smoke levels in outdoor public places can reach levels as high as those found in indoor facilities where smoking is permitted; and

WHEREAS, e-cigarette aerosol contains harmful and potentially harmful chemicals such as Nicotine, Diacetyl, Benzene, and Tin. Exposure to e-cigarette aerosol has not been proven to be safe; and

WHEREAS, studies find that passive exposure to e-cigarette use evokes smoking urge, desire, and behavior among young adult smokers; and

WHEREAS, tobacco-free events protect the environment from toxic litter. Cigarette butts are not biodegradable, meaning they do not decay and cannot be absorbed by the environment. In fact, cigarette butts remain intact for about 10 years before breaking apart.

[Name of organization] adopts the following Tobacco-Free Event Policy:

Definitions

- 1) “Event” means any organized activity that is sponsored or operated either totally or in part by and over which it has control or responsibility, or raises funds for **[name of organization]**. This definition includes activities related to the scheduled Event itself as well as Event set-up and take-down.
- 2) “Event site” means the entire physical area in which an Event is being staged and over which **[name of organization]** has control or responsibility. The Event Site includes all open, semi-open, and enclosed spaces and structures, including for example parking lots, loading docks, exhibit halls or vendor booths, conference rooms, dining areas, bathrooms, performance stages, sports or other recreational areas or facilities, pedestrian walkways or pathways, and roads accessible to motorized vehicles.
- 3) “Tobacco” means a product containing, made, or derived from tobacco or that contains nicotine that is intended for habitual human consumption or is likely to be consumed, whether smoked, heated, chewed, absorbed, dissolved, inhaled, or ingested, or by any other means, including but not limited to a cigarette, a cigar, pipe tobacco, chewing tobacco, snuff and snus, and electronic smoking devices.

- 4) “Electronic Smoking Device” means any device, regardless of whether or not it contains nicotine, that can be used to deliver nicotine or another substance in any form, including but not limited to aerosolized, vaporized, or heated, to the person inhaling from the device, including but not limited to an e-cigarette, e-cigar, e-pipe, vape pen, e-hookah, or any oral smoking device developed to circumvent the prohibition of smoking.

Tobacco-Free Event Policy and Procedures

- 1) No person shall use any form of tobacco, regardless of whether or not it contains nicotine, at or on any events organized by, operated by, funded by, owned by, or which raises funds for **[name of organization]**. These facilities include **[insert specific facilities here]**.
- 2) The tobacco-free policy does not apply to a site that is being used in connection with the practice of cultural activities by American Indians that is in accordance with the American Indian Religious Freedom Act, 42 U.S.C. 1996 and 1996a, whether or not the public is allowed access to those places.
- 3) It is not a violation of this policy to use a product that has been approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration for sale as a tobacco cessation product, as a tobacco dependence product, or for other medical purposes, and is being marketed and sold solely for such an approved purpose.
- 4) Appropriate signs shall be posted in the above specified areas in a conspicuous manner.

Tobacco-free signage is a common enforcement strategy. The use of signs is directly related to citizen enforcement.

- 5) Enforcement of the policy is a shared responsibility of the enforcement team and event attendees. The enforcement team, including **[those who make up the enforcement team]**, will make periodic observations at the events to monitor for compliance.

Venues can encourage citizen enforcement by posting signs strategically throughout the recreational area.

Some venues enforce their policy by having their staff monitor tobacco-free areas. Other venues that have enacted tobacco-free policies did not need to hire additional staff or allocate more resources to carryout enforcement. The venues added staff monitoring into existing job responsibilities.

- 6) Any person found violating this policy may be subject to immediate ejection from the recreation facility for the remainder of the event. Staff found violating this policy may be subject to disciplinary action.
- 7) This Tobacco-Free Event Policy is in addition to any federal, state, or local laws that restrict or otherwise regulate the use of Tobacco.
- 8) This Tobacco-Free Event Policy shall be communicated to the community **[30, 60, 120]** days prior to its effective date. This policy is effective as of **[effective date]**.

Policy Contact Information

For questions about this Tobacco-Free Event Policy, contact: **[Name, Title, & Contact Information]**

This Tobacco-Free Event Policy is accepted by and for **[name of organization]** by **[Name]** on **[date]**.